

**Challenge:** Describe what parts of the SOL currently support preparedness?

**Response:** Selected portions of the **Health Education Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools** (January 2008) are described as follows:

#### **Kindergarten**

- K.3 The student will explain the concept of being safe. Key concepts/skills include (b) the differences between emergency and non-emergency situations.
- K.4 The student will identify sources of health and safety information. Key concepts/skills include (a) a variety of information sources such as product-safety symbols, television, radio, print materials, and electronic media; (b) individuals, including school nurses, family members, health care personnel, teachers, school counselors, and public safety officials.

#### **Grade One**

- 1.3 The student will explain the need for specific rules and practices to promote personal safety and injury-free situations. Key concepts/skills include (a) bus and automobile safety; (b) pedestrian safety; (c) playground safety; (d) fire safety; (e) home safety; (f) Internet safety; (g) water safety; (h) bicycle, in-line skating, skateboard, scooter, and other self-propelled-vehicle safety; (i) the need for protective gear.

#### **Grade Two**

- 2.4 The student will recognize the influence that health resources and professionals have on personal health. Key concepts/skills include (b) emergency services.

#### **Grade Six**

- 6.5 The student will demonstrate injury prevention and management skills to promote personal and family health. Key concepts/skills include (a) safety habits in vehicles and public areas; (b) first-aid and safety practices; (c) strategies to prevent accidents and injuries.

## **Grade Eight**

- 8.5 The student will investigate and evaluate ways in which peers, families, and other community groups can work together to build a safe and healthy community. Key concepts/skills include (a) methods used to reduce health hazards and risks; (c) practices associated with healthy environments; (d) opportunities for community service.

## **Grade Nine**

- 9.5 The student will evaluate the benefits of collaboration in relation to community health and wellness initiatives. Key concepts/skills include: (a) the impact of developing positive relationships among health, wellness, and safety professionals for promotion of healthy communities; (b) promotion of community projects; (c) development of school and community health programs for citizens of all ages; (d) the need for community services.

## **Grade Ten**

- 10.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of health concepts, behaviors, and skills that reduce health risks and enhance the health and wellness of self and others throughout life. Key concepts/skills include (d) behaviors that result in intentional and unintentional injury.
- 10.3 The student will implement personal-injury-prevention and self-management strategies that promote personal, family, and community health throughout life. Key concepts/skills include: (a) strategies to reduce and prevent violence; (b) peaceful resolution of conflicts; (c) administration of emergency care; (e) recognition of life-threatening situations; (f) crisis-management strategies; (g) methods of avoiding gang-related activity and the use of weapons to commit violent acts of aggression; (h) recognition of when to seek support for self and others.

<b>Challenge:</b>	Describe what school programs are already included in the routine school curriculum (i.e. tornado drill, fire drill, etc).
<b>Response:</b>	Regulations regarding School Facilities and Safety have been established as a part of the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (8 VAC 20-131-260). Portions of the regulations are described as follows:

- B. Each school shall maintain records of regular safety, health, and fire inspections that have been conducted and certified by local health and fire departments. The frequency of such inspections shall be determined by the local school board in consultation with the local health and fire departments. In addition, the school administration shall:
  - 2. Conduct fire drills at least once a month during the first month of school and at least once each month for the remainder of the school term. Evacuation routes shall be posted in each room. Additionally, at least one simulated lock-down and crisis emergency evacuation activity shall be conducted early in the school year.
- C. Each school shall have contingency plans for emergencies that include staff certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the Heimlich maneuver, and emergency first aid. In addition, the school administration shall ensure that the school has:
  - 1. Written procedures to follow in emergencies such as fire, injury, illness, allergic reactions and violent or threatening behavior. The plan shall be outlined in the student handbook and discussed with staff and students during the first week of each school year;
  - 2. Space for the proper care of students who become ill;
  - 3. A written procedure, in accordance with guidelines established by the local school board, for responding to violent, disruptive or illegal activities by students on school property or during a school sponsored activity; and
  - 4. Written procedures to follow for the safe evacuation of persons with special physical, medical, or language needs who may need assistance to exit a facility.

<b>Challenge:</b>	Describe <i>Code of Virginia</i> legislative requirements that are related to preparedness.
<b>Response:</b>	Information describing legislative code requirements is described as follows:

**TORNADO DRILLS** are conducted each year in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Services. A Superintendent's Memo is sent annually from the Department of Education, notifying school divisions about the selected date. Section 22.1-137 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that all public schools participate in at least one tornado drill per year. Participation in Tornado Preparedness Day fulfills the requirement. If the drill date is not convenient, schools are welcome to choose an alternative date or time. The most recent drill date was March 18, 2008.

**FIRE DRILLS** are required to be conducted at least one every week during the first twenty school days of each school session and more often if necessary, in order that pupils may be thoroughly practiced in such drills. During the remainder of the school session fire drills shall be held at least monthly (*Code of Virginia*, Section 22.1-137).

**CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLANS** were originally required in 1999 with amendments to Section 22.1-278.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. This legislation required local school boards to ensure that each school develops a written school crisis and emergency management plan. Section 22.1-278 further required that the Virginia Board of Education develop a model plan for the purpose of assisting public schools in Virginia in developing viable, effective crisis and emergency management plans. The **Model School Crisis Management Plan** was approved by the Virginia Board of Education on June 24, 1999. The Model Plan was updated in 2002 in response to legislative action (HB 46 and HB 886) by the General Assembly. Two new sections were added on (1) Terrorism (2) Communications.

In 2002, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) updated the original 1996 document that had been developed prior to the legislative requirement that came in 1999. Since its introduction, the 240-page publication, **Resource Guide for Crisis Management in Virginia Schools** has been reprinted a number of times and has been used extensively in assisting school districts across the country in developing their own crisis management plans.

In 2006, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation (SB 75) that required changing the term "school crisis emergency management plan" to "school crisis emergency management and medical emergency response plan" and required that the plan include a medical emergency response plan.

The new 2007 publication, **Resource Guide for Crisis Management and Emergency Response in Virginia Schools**, represents both best practice and the most recent

information available. It was developed with the assistance of a representative advisory group from school divisions and state agencies. Material in the new publication has been completely revised and updated with the most significant changes centered on the inclusion of medical emergencies:

- School Medical Emergency Response Planning
- Steps in Planning for Medical emergencies
- Protocols
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic Defibrillator Programs

Printed copies of the new publication are not available at the current time. The document is available on the VDOE Web site: [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov).

Copies are currently being printed and will be made available to participants at the upcoming Crisis Management Institutes being sponsored by the Virginia Center for School Safety (VCSS) within the Department of Criminal Justice Services in cooperation with the VDOE.

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF CRISIS PLANS** is required in accordance with Section 22.2-279.8 passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2007. School boards are required to annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans of each school in the division. The superintendent shall certify in writing that review has taken place no later than August 31 of each year to the VCSS.

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